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OF THE

THIRD WAGE CENSUS

OF THE

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

TAKEN IN

DECEMBER 1923

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REPORT

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DECEMBER 1923

PESHAWAR

N.-W. F. P. GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY OFFICE

1924.

Report on the Third Wage Census of the North-West Frontier Province taken in December 1923.

The first wage census of the North-West Frontier Province was held in 1912, the second in 1917 and the third in December last.

Object of the census.

2. The object of the census was to ascertain the standard rates of wages in each district of the North-West Frontier Province and to provide materials for the observation of permanent changes in the standard rates, neglecting short period fluctuations.

Method of the enquiry.

3. The information was collected through the agency of Tahsildars for urban areas and Field Kanungos for rural areas, by means of questionnaires sent to them by this office. In urban areas the enquiry was confined to the towns of Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan which are the trading centres of the Province, while the investigations in rural areas were made in all the districts of the Province, *viz.* Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. About 12 villages truly representative of the rural area of each Field Kanungo's circle, containing a resident population adequate for agricultural purposes and not situated within 10 miles of a town were selected for the enquiry. From the information so collected, the actual facts have been ascertained in this office and the results of the investigation are embodied in this report.

While making other suggestions for the improvement of these statistics, the Government of India proposed in 1919 that a more suitable agency for obtaining rates of wages in urban and rural areas would be District Boards and Municipalities. In August 1923 they however directed that statistics of agricultural wages only may be collected before the end of August next, and finally in November last left it to the discretion of Local Governments to determine for themselves in what form and at what intervals statistics regarding wages in rural areas should be collected. This Province is purely agricultural and although our local bodies are possibly capable of collecting the statistics, it is considered that this work should remain in

the hands of the regular Revenue establishment of each district, as tending to greater accuracy and reliability. The enquiry was accordingly made as usual through the Revenue staff.

Ordinarily the census was to be held in December 1922, but as the question of improvement of the statistics of wages was under consideration of the Supreme Government the matter was deferred till receipt of the final instructions and the census was held in December last. Though the war ended during the previous quinquennium, yet the restoration of peace did not have any material effect on the wages.

Urban Wages.

The towns of Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan were selected for the purpose of the enquiry into the rates of wages in urban areas as at the preceding census and the necessary information was obtained through the Tahsildars by actual enumeration of the labouring classes concerned as usual. The result of the enumeration is given in columns (2) and (4) of Table A and the present number of workers compares as follows with the previous census figures :—

Class of workers.	*Percentage of increase or decrease.*			
	Peshawar.		Dera Ismail Khan.	
	1912	1917	1912	1917
1. Workers in iron and hardware ...	−9	+30	−11	+153
2. Brass, copper and bell metal workers	+18	−2	+28	+25
3. Carpenters	+5	+5	+35	+100
4. Cotton weavers (hand industry) ...	+5	+5	+700	+344
5. Masons and builders	+15	+16	−27	−57
6. General labour (unskilled) ...	+2·0	+37	+12	+221

On the whole the number of artizans and unskilled labourers in Peshawar does not show any marked variation, while the considerable fluctuations in classes (1), (3), (4) and (6) of Dera Ismail Khan District do not require any

special remarks, as the number of workers in that district under the last-named three classes is small. The increase in classes (1) and (6) may however be attributed to demobilization after the war.

The wages of the selected classes of workers shown in Table A have increased as follows since the last census :—

Class of workers.	*Peshawar.*		*Dera Ismail Khan.*	
	1917	1923	1917	1923
1. Workers in iron and hardware ...	20	20	24	40—48
2. Brass, copper, and bell metal workers	20	24	14	20
3. Carpenters	20	36	14	24—32
4. Cotton weavers (hand industry) ...	20	20	10	24—32
5. Masons and builders	20	36	17	24—32
6. General labour (unskilled) ...	12	12—14	9	10—12

Comparison with rural rates.

The following table compares the urban rates of carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and unskilled labourers with their rural rates in the case of the districts for which both urban and rural rates are available :—

District.	*Carpenters.*		*Blacksmiths*		*Masons.*		*Unskilled Labourers.*	
	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.
Peshawar ...	36	36	20	28	36	36	12-14	10
Dera Ismail Khan ...	24-32	32	40-48	32	24-32	32	10-12	12

Comparison of Peshawar City rates with the Lahore rates.

The present rates prevailing in the Peshawar City are generally lower than those in Lahore. This Province is purely agricultural and the large mass of cultivating proprietors here, which constitute the majority of the population, have to be kept in view in

comparing the conditions of this Province with those in the capital of the more advanced adjoining province.

Rural wages.

Three hundred and sixty villages were selected for the present quinquennial enquiries. The wages commonly paid to labourers have been selected and shown in Tables B and C. The money equivalent of all supplements, where such payments are made, have been included in the cash wages.

Rural labour, unskilled.

The daily cash rates range between 7 and 12 annas as shown in Table B. These are the most common rates paid to village labourers and are 8 annas in Kohat and Bannu and 7, 10 and 12 annas in Hazara, Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan, respectively.

The rate of 10 annas paid in the Peshawar District corresponds with the rural wage rate prevailing in the Lahore District and also paid to daily labourers at the Government Agricultural Farm at Tarnab in this Province.

Payment in kind is reported in 13 villages out of the total number of villages selected for enquiry, but this method of payment is now disappearing.

Rural labour, skilled village artizans.

Daily rates were reported from 70 per cent. of the selected villages in the case of carpenters from 57 per cent. in the case of blacksmiths, and 58 per cent. in the case of masons. Carpenters and blacksmiths are generally remunerated by a share of the produce at harvest time for repairing agricultural implements and the wood-work of wells. The wages of artizans range between 20 to 36 annas throughout the Province and exceed those reported in the previous quinquènnium ending 1916-17.

Rural labour, skilled ploughmen.

In Hazara the system of employing ploughmen for the whole month does not exist. Cash rates are reported from only 47 per cent. of the total number of selected villages. They generally get a share of the produce, pure cash rates are rare and they receive a large number of upplements besides cash wages. The most common rate

with supplement ranges between Rs. 8 and Rs. 15 per mensem.

Supplements.

The custom of supplying supplements in kind prevails only in some villages of the Hazara and Peshawar Districts, where these labourers are usually given meals once or twice a day. Artizans and ploughmen are everywhere granted supplements. In the case of artizans the supplements usually consist of one or two meals a day costing usually 4 to 8 annas. The concession to ploughmen are given in the form of food, free lodging, clothing, bedding, shoes and grain at harvest.

General.

Wages have generally risen above those reported in the previous quinquennium. The advance is attributed to the general rise in the price of food grains and other necessaries of life.

W. J. KEEN, LIEUT.-COLONEL,

Revenue Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province.

N.-W. F. P. Govt. Ptg. & Sty. Office, Peshawar—1404 R. C.—24-25—180—24-11-24—J.B.

TABLE A.

Rates of daily wages in annas and pies (including money value of any supplement in kind) most commonly paid to certain classes of labour in December 1912, 1917 and 1923, in the towns named, together with particulars of population, as at the last census, and the numerical strength of the respective classes of employment.

1		2	3	4	5	6
Class of ordinary skilled labour.		*Town—Peshawar. Population—104,452.* Numerical strength of class named.	*Town—Peshawar.* Wages per diem.	*Town—Dera Ismail Khan. Population—39,341.* Numerical strength of class named.	*Town—Dera Ismail Khan.* Wages per diem.	REMARKS.
			As P.		As. P.	
Workers in iron and hardware ...	Wages Census of 1912...	57	18 0	108	19 0	
	" 1917...	40	20 0	38	24 0	
	" 1923...	52	20 0	96	40 0 to 48 0	
Brass, copper and bell metal workers ...	" 1912...	99	24 0	39	16 0	
	" 1917...	120	20 0	40	14 0	
	" 1923...	117	24 0	50	20 0	
Carpenters	" 1912...	325	21 0	37	17 0	
	" 1917...	325	20 0	25	14 0	
	" 1923...	340	36 0	50	24 0 to 32 0	
Cotton weavers (hand industry) ...	" 1912...	309	12 0	5	5 0	
	" 1917...	309	20 0	9	10 0	
	" 1923...	325	20 0	40	24 0 to 32 0	
Masons and builders	" 1912...	600	20 0	137	16 0	
	" 1917...	440	20 0	220	17 0	
	" 1923...	510	36 0	100	24 0 to 32 0	
General labour (unskilled) ...	" 1912...	2,750	9 0	400	6 6	
	" 1917...	2,045	12 0	140	9 0	
	" 1923...	2,800	12 0 to 14 0	450	10 0 to 12 0	

TABLE B.

Rural wage rates in the North-West Frontier Province, as determined by enquiry in December 1923, compared with the rates returned in 1917.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
DISTRICT.	UNSKILLED LABOUR BY DAY.							
	Cash.				Grain.			
	1917.		1923.		1917.		1923.	
	Range of typical rates.	Most common rates.	Range of typical rates.	Most common rates.	Value.	Weight.	Value.	Weight.
	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.		Annas.	
Hazara	5 to 8	6	6 to 12	7	...	...	...	...
Peshawar	5 to 11	8	6 to 14	10	6	Maize 11 lbs.	9	Maize 16 lbs.
Kohat	5 to 9	8	8 to 11	8	...	...	...	...
Bannu	6 to 8	6	6 to 12	8	...	...	...	...
Dera Ismail Khan	4 to 10	8	7 to 14	12	6¼	Wheat flour 1 lb. with supplement.	11	Bajra 15 lbs.

TABLE B—*concluded.*

Rural wage rates in the North-West Frontier Province, as determined by enquiry in December 1923, compared with the rates returned in 1917.

1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
DISTRICT.	*Carpenter by day.*		*Blacksmith by day.*		*Mason by day.*		*Ploughman by month.*		REMARKS.
	1917.	1923.	1917.	1923.	1917.	1923.	1917.	1923.	
	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hazara	16	20	16	20	16	20	...	...	
Peshawar	24	36	24	28	24	36	12	15	
Kohat	20	24	20	24	20	32	8	12	
Bannu	24	28	28	32	24	32	12	12	
Dera Ismail Khan	20	32	20	32	20	32	8	12	

TABLE C.

Rates of daily wages in annas and pies (including money value of any supplements in kind) most commonly paid to agricultural labourers in selected villages of the districts of the North-West Frontier Province and the number of villages in which such rates are paid.

District.	Number of selected villages.	Rate of daily wage including value of payments in kind.		Number of villages in which the stated rate is familiar as a cash wage.		Number of villages in which the rate is familiar as a grain wage.	Total number of villages in which the stated rate prevails.	
		As.	p.	Without supplement.	With supplement in kind.			
Hazara	47	7	0	30	...	...	30	
Peshawar	154	10	0	30	12	...	42	
Kohat	61	8	0	51	...	...	51	
Bannu	34	8	0	13	...	...	13	
Dera Ismail Khan ...	64	12	0	23	...	...	23	

N.-W. F. P. Govt. Ptg. & Sty. Office, Peshawar—1404 R. C.—24-25—21-11-24—180—J. B.